

Paul Cuffee School

MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

JANUARY 16, 2014

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Paul Cuffee School was held on January 16, 2014 at the Paul Cuffee Lower School in Providence, Rhode Island.

Present: Su Almeida, David Burnham, Russell Carey, Tom Chen, Allyn Copp, Stefano Crema, Dorothy Fields, Crystal Gantz, Phil Gould, Robert Kelley, Keith Mathews, Leeds Mitchell IV, Joop Nagtegaal, Kim Noble, Dorothy Patrick, Carolyn Pemberton, Abraham Pinales, Giselle Polanco, Earl Smith III, Babak Taleghani

Absent: Darline Berrios, Alex Molina

Guests: Leslie Brackett, Daniel J. Moos, Stephen A. Nardelli

Paul Cuffee Staff: Derrick Ciesla, Jon Conklin, Becky Coustan, Rudy Moseley, Wendy Randall

Absent: Maria Montiero, Maria Palmgren

Call to Order

President Russell Carey called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence. He asked the Board members to

introduce themselves to the invited guests.

Approval of Minutes

After a properly moved and seconded motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting of the Board, the Board unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes. No amendments or changes were suggested to the draft minutes before the vote was taken.

Rhode Island League of Charter Schools Update

Mr. Stephen Nardelli, Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools, started his presentation by thanking the school for the opportunity to address the Board. Steve discussed the history of Rhode Island's charter school legislation from 1995 to the present. He distributed and discussed two handouts. The first handout listed the areas in which the League and its members were doing well. The second handout was a description of services that the League provides to its member schools, including: advocacy and government relations (including the League's efforts to defeat anti-charter school legislation), outreach, professional development, professional collaborations, and joint purchasing opportunities. Steve's presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

Sewer Remediation Project at the Lower School

Mr. Daniel J. Moos, a Principal at Convergent Capital Consultants LLC (and a Paul Cuffee School parent), discussed the combined sewer

overflow (“CSO”) project that is adjacent to the Lower School. Dan distributed four handouts: a CSO Project Site Update memorandum dated January 16, 2014 prepared by Convergent Capital Consultants LLC; a Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (“RIDEM”) Notification to Abutters, dated January 2, 2014 which states that a Site Investigation for 36 Hemlock Street has been completed; an undated Construction Impacts Mitigation Plan prepared by the Narragansett Bay Commission (“NBC”) for the CSO Phase II Project at Rathbone and Promenade Streets; and an undated sketch showing a typical cross-section of the combined sewer overflow. A discussion followed during which concerns were expressed about NBC, RIDEM and construction of the combined sewer overflow project adjacent to the Lower School. Mr. Keith Mathews moved that Interim Head of School Wendy Randall send a letter to NBC urging the commission to implement the mitigation measures that are contained in the CSO Project Site Update memorandum dated January 16, 2014 and prepared by Convergent Capital Consultants. Ms Carolyn Pemberton seconded the motion which passed by the unanimous vote of the Board.

Graduation Waiver Policy

Because the Board of Regents has made attainment of Partial Proficiency on NECAP reading and math exams a graduation requirement for the 2014 graduating class of seniors, Upper School Principal Becky Coustan discussed proposed graduation, waiver and appeals policies that would be applicable to the members of our 2104

graduating class. Mr. Phil Gould made a motion to approve the three policies, Mr. Babak Taleghani seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion by unanimous vote.

Head of School Report

Interim Head of School Wendy Randle gave the Head of School report and discussed recent school events at the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Trusteeship and Governance (CoTaG)

Mr. Stefano Crema reviewed with the Board the committee's meeting of January 13, 2014 and referenced the minutes of that meeting. Mr. Crema also informed the Board that there would be four vacancies on the Board at the end of this school year, and he asked the Board to send him the names of any suggested new Board members.

HR Committee

Ms Carolyn Pemberton reviewed with the Board the committee's meeting of January 7, 2014 and referenced the minutes of that meeting. The minutes of the committee's meetings that were held on November 5, 2013 and December 10, 2013 also were distributed. The approved Hiring Process policy was also shared with the Board. The current technology policy was listed as a handout on today's Board meeting agenda, but that policy was not distributed.

Finance Committee

Mr. Babak Taleghani reviewed with the Board the committee's meeting of January 13, 2014 and referenced the minutes of that meeting. He also discussed a Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period beginning on July 1, 2013 and ending on December 31, 2013; a Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2013; and a Budget Summary with projection models through 2018-19. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year the projection models project a budget deficit.

Other Business

After the Finance Committee presentation, President Russell Cary expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication that the School's Interim Head of School, senior staff and teachers have done and shown this year.

Head of School Search Update

Ms Kim Noble and Mr. Earl Smith III gave an update on the Head of School search. They stated that the search process would include listening meetings, developing a score card for the position, sourcing of candidates, screening processes that narrowed the field down to a few candidates who would be invited to interview at the school, and possibly a Board decision and vote in May or June. Their presentation was followed by a question and answer period.

Adjournment

There being no further business coming before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m. by a unanimous vote that was taken after a properly moved and seconded motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kelley